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NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 31st December 1944.

To the Members of the
Newhaven Port Health Authority.
Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Port of Newhaven during the year 1944.

The health of the crews in ships entering the Port over this period has been very good. 6 Cases of sickness were brought to my notice. They were as follows:- Gastritis 2. Lumbago 1 Dermatitis 1 Influenza 1 and Measles 1.

To provide against the importation of Infectious Disease in to the Port, temporary quarantine would be at the anchorage, until fixed quarantine is arranged, which under present circumstances is fluid. The Lewes, Newhaven & Seaford Joint Hospital Board possess a well equipped Isolation Hospital to which cases of Infectious Disease can be removed for treatment at any time, Cases of Smallpox can be removed to the Smallpox Hospital at Chailey, and for this object arrangements are in force with Brighton for the provision of an Ambulance. A supply of Calf Lymph, renewed every two months, is alwasys kept in cold storage and can be obtained at very short notice. In case of incidence of Plague on board any vessel entering the Harbour, it is proposed to apply rat guards, and wrapping over the mooring ropes tarred daily to prevent the incursion of rats on to the shore.

The only Foreign Port with which Newhaven had any considerable traffic was Dieppe, and the chief risk of the importation of Infectious Disease was from the Continent of Europe. This traffic is now brought to a standstill owing to the war. A limited amount of traffic with the Continent is at the present time being carried on.

The total number of vessels entering the Port during the year was 367. The number entering the Port for shelter only was 10, and Tugs 9. The sanitary conditions generally were good, and there was no necessity to serve any notice. Verbal instructions were given in those cases where improvement could be made, and where further inspection was possible, such improvement was found to have been carried out. 4 ships were treated for rats, 1 fishing vessel was treated for bugs. 1 Ship was treated for bugs by the Southern Railway Company Squad, whilst under repair. Rats were not otherwise in evident on board ship, probably due to the fact that most cargoes were coal carried by coastwise shipping only.

Aliens Order 1920. No aliens entered the Port for landing during the year and no inspections were necessary in this respect.

Psittacosis. No birds entered the Port during the year and no action was necessary.

Foreign Meat and Unsound Food. No food of any description entered the Port during the year.

Amount of Shipping entering the Port:- Table A.

Number of ships entering the Port	367
Number of ships inspected by the Medical Officer	2
Number of Ships inspected by the Sanitary Inspector	286
Number of ships reported to be defective	11
Number of ships reported as having Infectious Disease	1

Character of the Trade of the Port:- Table B.

Imports. The only imports during the year were Coal, Stone, Oil, and stores. The usual imports of manufacturer silk, cotton, wool, timber, motor cars, machinery, clocks, watches, chemicals, brandy, wines, fruits and potatoes, have ceased owing to the war.

Exports. No exports have occurred during the year. Fish, textiles, and machinery are usually exported in normal times.

Passenger Traffic.: Nil.

Source of Water Supply. The water supply to the Port and Shipping on the East Side is pumped from a well sunk into the chalk at Denton and owned by the Southern Railway Company. Samples for examination are taken each quarter and the results prove the water to be of a good quality. Water for the West Side is provided by the Newhaven and Seaford Water Company. Frequent samples prove this supply to be very good in all respects.

Table C. One case of Infectious Disease was landed for treatment at the Isolation Hospital, viz a case of Measles.

Table D. No cases of Infectious Disease occurred on vessels during the voyage prior to entering this Port.

Table E. Number of rats destroyed on vessels during the year 47. A specially appointed man is employed by the Southern Railway Company to catch or poison rats on their properties, which work this year has been supervised by a private Commercial Firm of rat destructors.

Table F. Rats destroyed on quays and other Railway properties 200/300. This figure can only be estimated owing to the main treatment being by poison, and is for properties still in the occupation of the Railway Company only.

My thanks are due to the Officials of the Railway Company, Customs, Home Office and C.I.D., for their courtesy and ready help extended to me in the execution of my duties.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

(Signed) Rodie Parkhurst,
Medical Officer of Health.

Newhaven.

January 25th 1945.